STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

1979-80 MONTANA MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REGULATIONS - PACIFIC FLYWAY

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher, and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the state of Montana within the Pacific Flyway is opened to hunting of migratory waterfowl under the regulations listed below.

DUCKS

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979, to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through December 30, 1979.
Daily & Possession Limit: Daily limit of 7 ducks and, after opening day, a possession limit of 14 ducks except no more than 2 redheads or 2 canvasbacks or 1 of each daily may be taken and no more than 4 singly or in the aggregate may be possessed.
Coots: The daily bag and possession limit shall be 25 coots.
Mergansers: In addition to the bag limit on other ducks, the daily limit of mergansers will be a daily aggregate limit of 5 and possession limit of 10. In the daily limit, no more than 1 hooded merganser may be included and no more than 2 hooded mergansers may be included in the possession limit.

GEESE

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979, to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through December 30, 1979.
Daily & Possession Limit: The daily and possession limit shall be 5 geese. No more than 2 of the dark species (Whitefronts, Canadas) and no more than 3 white geese will be allowed in the daily or possession limit.

Exception 1: One-half hour before sunrise October 13, 1979 and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through December 30, 1979 in those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, thence in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to U.S. Highway 12, thence east along Highway 12 to the Jefferson-Broadwater County line, thence southerly, easterly, and northerly along the Broadwater County line to the head of Magpie Gulch, thence southerly down Magpie Gulch to State Route 284, thence westerly along State Route 284 to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.

Exception 2: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979, to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through November 25, 1979, in portions of Flathead, Lake, and Sanders counties described as follows: Beginning at Ravalli, thence north along U.S. Highway 93 to Polson and Elmo, thence west on State Highway 28 to its intersection with State Highway 382 near Hot Springs and south along said highway to Perma, thence east along U.S. Highway 10 to Ravalli, the point of beginning.

Exception 3: One-half hour before sunrise October 13, 1979 and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through December 30, 1979, Deer Lodge County.

Note: Each morning before the season opens, a drawing will be conducted to determine assignment of goose hunting pits at Ninepipes Game Management Area.

COMMON (WILSON'S) SNIPE

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979, to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through December 30, 1979.
Daily & Possession Limit: Daily limit of 8 Common (Wilson's) snipe and, after opening day, a possession limit of 16 Common (Wilson's) snipe.

WHISTLING SWAN

Five hundred permits will be issued authorizing each permittee to take one whistling swan. Season is restricted to Teton County. Permits will be valid 93 days, beginning one-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979, and ending at sunset December 30, 1979. Written applications must be submitted to the Helena office and received by the Helena Fish, Wildlife and Parks office by September 7, 1979. The applicant's 1979 Montana Bird License number must be on the application.

Falconry Season

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979 to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through January 13, 1980.
Daily & Possession Limits: For all permitted migratory game birds, the daily bag and possession limit shall not exceed 3 and 6 birds respectively, singly or in the aggregate, during both the regular hunting season and extended falconry season.

REGULATIONS

Waterfowl Closures: A portion of Freezout Lake Waterfowl Development Area in Teton County and an ACM settling pond near Warm Springs will be closed as posted to all waterfowl hunting. The southern half of Lake Helena and the Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir in Lewis & Clark County, and portions of Fresno Reservoir and McLean Reservoir in Hill County shall be closed to all waterfowl hunting; in Madison County, a portion of the Madison Valley north of Ennis, as posted; and a portion of Flathead County east of Somers on the north shore of Flathead Lake as posted.

During the opening weekend of waterfowl hunting at Freezout Game Management area (September 29-30), hunting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise until 12:00 noon. Waterfowl hunting within the boundaries of Freezout will be prohibited during the afternoons of the first two days of the season.

Means of Taking: Migratory waterfowl may be taken only with bow and arrow or with a shotgun not larger than ten gauge and incapable of holding more than three shells fired from the shoulder, or by falconry. Migratory waterfowl may not be taken from or by means, or aid of, or use of a sinkbox, aircraft, motor vehicle or motor-driven conveyance of any kind, except a motorboat, when the motor has been shut off and the boat has stopped. Use of any electronic or phonographic waterfowl-calling device is illegal.

License: Must be in possession of a Class AAA $35 Resident Sportsman's License or a Class A-1 $4 Resident Bird License and $1 Conservation License, or Class B-1 $30 Nonresident Bird License and $1 Conservation License, or a Class B-2 $50 Nonresident Combination License, or a Class B-10 $225 Nonresident Big Game Combination License. Montana residents 62 and older must be in possession of the $1 Conservation License. In addition to one of the above licenses, must be in possession of a Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, and for falconers a $3 Falconry License. Persons under the age of 16 years need not possess the Federal Migratory Bird Stamp. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt game birds.

STATE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Robert F. Wambach

BY: ROBERT F. WAMBACH, SECRETARY
August 9, 1979

STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

1979-80 MONTANA MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REGULATIONS - CENTRAL FLYWAY

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the state of Montana within the Central Flyway is open to hunting of migratory waterfowl under the regulations listed below.

DUCKS

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979, to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through November 27, 1979. Then reopening one-half hour before sunrise December 10, 1979 to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through January 1, 1980.
Bag Limit: The season is based on a daily point value of 100 plus points. The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of the last bird taken, when added to the sum of the point values of other birds already taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit is the maximum number of birds which legally could have been taken in two days. The point allocation for ducks is as follows:

10 Points	20 Points	70 Points	100 Points
Blue-Wing Teal	Drake Mallard	Hen Mallard	Canvasback
Green-Wing Teal	Ringneck Duck	Wood Duck	
Cinnamon Teal	All other species & sex not listed under other categories.	Hooded Merganser	
Scaup		Redhead	
Pintail			
Gadwall			
Shoveller			
Common & Red-Breasted Merganser			
American Widgeon			

Coots have a point value of zero, but the bag is limited to 15 and 30 in possession.

GEESE

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979, to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day to December 30, 1979.
Daily & Possession Limit: Daily limit of 2 and a possession limit of 4 geese.

LITTLE BROWN CRANE

Persons wishing to hunt Little Brown Cranes must obtain a free permit available from the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, the Fish, Wildlife and Parks regional headquarters in Glasgow, Billings, or Miles City, or the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks office in Helena.
Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979, to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through November 4, 1979.
Daily & Possession Limit: Daily limit will be 3 Little Brown Crane,& after opening day, a possession limit of 6.

Exception 1: Sheridan County and that area south and west of Interstate Highway 90 and the Big Horn River shall be closed to the hunting of Little Brown Crane.

COMMON (WILSON'S) SNIPE

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979, to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through November 27, 1979.
Daily & Possession Limit: Daily limit of 8 Common (Wilson's) snipe and, after opening day, a possession limit of 16 Common (Wilson's) snipe.

Falconry Season

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise September 29, 1979 to sunset and daily thereafter from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day through January 13, 1980.
Daily & Possession Limits: For all permitted migratory game birds, the daily bag and possession limit shall not exceed 3 and 6 birds respectively, singly or in the aggregate, during both the regular hunting season and extended falconry seasons.

REGULATIONS

Waterfowl Closures: Nelson Reservoir in Phillips County; North Chinook Reservoir in Blaine County; and portions of Treasure and Rosebud counties shall be closed to all waterfowl hunting.

Means of Taking: Migratory waterfowl may be taken only with bow and arrow, with shotgun not larger than ten gauge and incapable of holding more than three shells fired from the shoulder, or by falconry. Migratory waterfowl may not be taken from or by means, or aid of, or use of a sinkbox, aircraft, motor vehicle or motor-driven conveyance of any kind, except a motorboat, when the motor has been shut off and the boat has stopped. Use of any electronic or phonographic waterfowl-calling device is illegal.

License: Must be in possession of a Class AAA $35 Resident Sportsman's License or a Class A-1 $4 Resident Bird License and $1 Conservation License, or Class B-1 $30 Nonresident Bird License and $1 Conservation License, or a Class B-2 $50 Nonresident Combination License, or a Class B-10 $225 Nonresident Big Game Combination License. Montana residents 62 and older must be in possession of the $1 Conservation License. In addition to one of the above licenses, must be in possession of a Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, and for falconers a $3 Falconry License. Persons under the age of 16 years need not possess the Federal Migratory Bird Stamp. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt game birds.

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August 9, 1979

1979

WATERFOWL CLOSURES

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the following described areas shall be closed to the hunting, harassment, or molesting of migratory waterfowl.

REGION ONE: Flathead County: Beginning where the west access road to the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area enters said area in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, Section 24, T27N, R21W, approximately one-half (½) mile east of the town of Somers, thence east-northeast along fence marking U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property as posted to the west property line of the Dedman ownership in the West Half of Section 20, T27N, R20W, thence south along said line fence as posted to the north shore of Flathead Lake, thence south and westerly approximately one and three-quarters (1 3/4) miles as posted to a large stump displaying a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ownership sign in the North Half of the North Half of Section 25, T27N, R21W, thence northerly along west property line of said Waterfowl Production Area to the point of beginning. (This area is also closed to upland game bird hunting.)

REGION TWO: Warm Springs Pond No. 3 (Deer Lodge County): A piece, parcel, or tract of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 in T4N, R10W, M.P.M., portions of Sections 30 and 31 in T5N, R9W, M.P.M., and portions of Section 25 and 36 in T5N, R10W, M.P.M., more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the section corner common to Sections 19 and 30 in T5N, R9W and Sections 24 and 25 in T5N, R10W, M.P.M., and running thence west along the north boundary line of said Section 25, T5N, R10W, a distance of 1,060 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly right-of-way boundary line to U.S. Highway 10 south, thence south 7° 52' west, along the easterly right-of-way boundary line of said U.S. Highway 10 south, a distance of 16,660 feet, more or less, to a point on the northerly right-of-way boundary line of a cross road, thence south 34° 9' east, along the northerly right-of-way boundary line of said cross road, a distance of 216.5 feet to a point, thence south 85° 39' east, along said right-of-way line, a distance of 965.0 feet to a point, thence north 83° 5' east, along said right-of-way line, a distance of 112.6 feet to a point, thence north 54° 34' east along said right-of-way line, a distance of 167.7 feet to a point on the westerly right-of-way boundary line of the old county road to Deer Lodge, thence in a northerly direction along the westerly right-of-way boundary line of the old county road, a distance of 15,600 feet, more or less, to a point, thence north 63° 17' west, along a line 800 feet northerly of and parallel to the center line of dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3, a distance of 2,831.3 feet to a point, thence north 24° 45' west, a distance of 2,713.4 feet to a point on the north boundary line of Section 30, T5N, R9W, thence north 89° 24' west, along the north boundary line of said Section 30, a distance of 1,567.0 feet to the section corner common to Sections 19 and 30 in T5N, R9W, and Sections 24 and 25 in T5N, R10W, M.P.M., the place of beginning, containing in all an area of 1,580 acres, more or less.

REGION THREE: Madison County: Those portions of Sections 16, 21, and 28 lying east of U.S. Highway 287 and the western portions of Sections 15, 22, and 27 from 100 feet west of the western more channel of the Madison River (known locally as Fletcher Creek), all in T4S, R1E.

REGION FOUR: Freezout Game Management Area (Teton County): SW¼, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W; W½ Section 12, W½ of E½ Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Game Management Area, T22N, R4W. (This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting.)

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County): The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Section 8, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley, as posted. (This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting.)

South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County): Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, thence in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, thence south approximately ½ mile, thence in an easterly direction 1½ miles, thence north ¼ mile, thence east 3/4 mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, thence down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, thence in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning, in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25, and 26 in T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30 in T11N, R2W.

REGION FIVE: None

REGION SIX: Fresno Reservoir Area (Hill County): That portion of the Milk River and within 300 yards of its banks between the southeast corner of Section 1, T34N, R12E and the former Kremlin crossing (Section 22, T34N, R13E).

McLean Reservoir (Hill County): Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21, T36N, R15E.

Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County): Approximately 4,300 acres located in portions of Sections 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35, T32N, R32E; Sections 26, 35, & 36, T32N, R31E; and Sections 4, 5, & 6, T31N, R32E.

North Chinook Reservoir (Blaine County): Approximately, 2,215 acres located in the following sections and part sections of T35N, R18E: NE¼, NW¼, N½SE¼, N½,S½,SE¼, portion of the SW¼ Section 22; Section 23: Section 24; NE¼, SE¼, N½NW¼, portion of S½NW¼ Section 25; portion of the N½NW¼ Section 26.

REGION SEVEN: Treasure & Rosebud Counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County Line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, sloughs, and sandbars.

STATE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Robert F. Wambach

BY: ROBERT F. WAMBACH, SECRETARY
August 9, 1979

ENDRIN FACT SHEET FOR WATERFOWL HUNTERS

THE PROBLEM

Early last spring at least 120,000 acres of land, mostly in eastern Montana, was sprayed with the pesticide "endrin" to combat army cutworms in wheat fields.

Endrin is a highly toxic, long lasting poison which collects in the fat and internal organs of animals when it is ingested. The poison can then be passed on to humans when they eat contaminated animals.

Sampling has shown that some Montana upland game birds and waterfowl are contaminated with endrin.

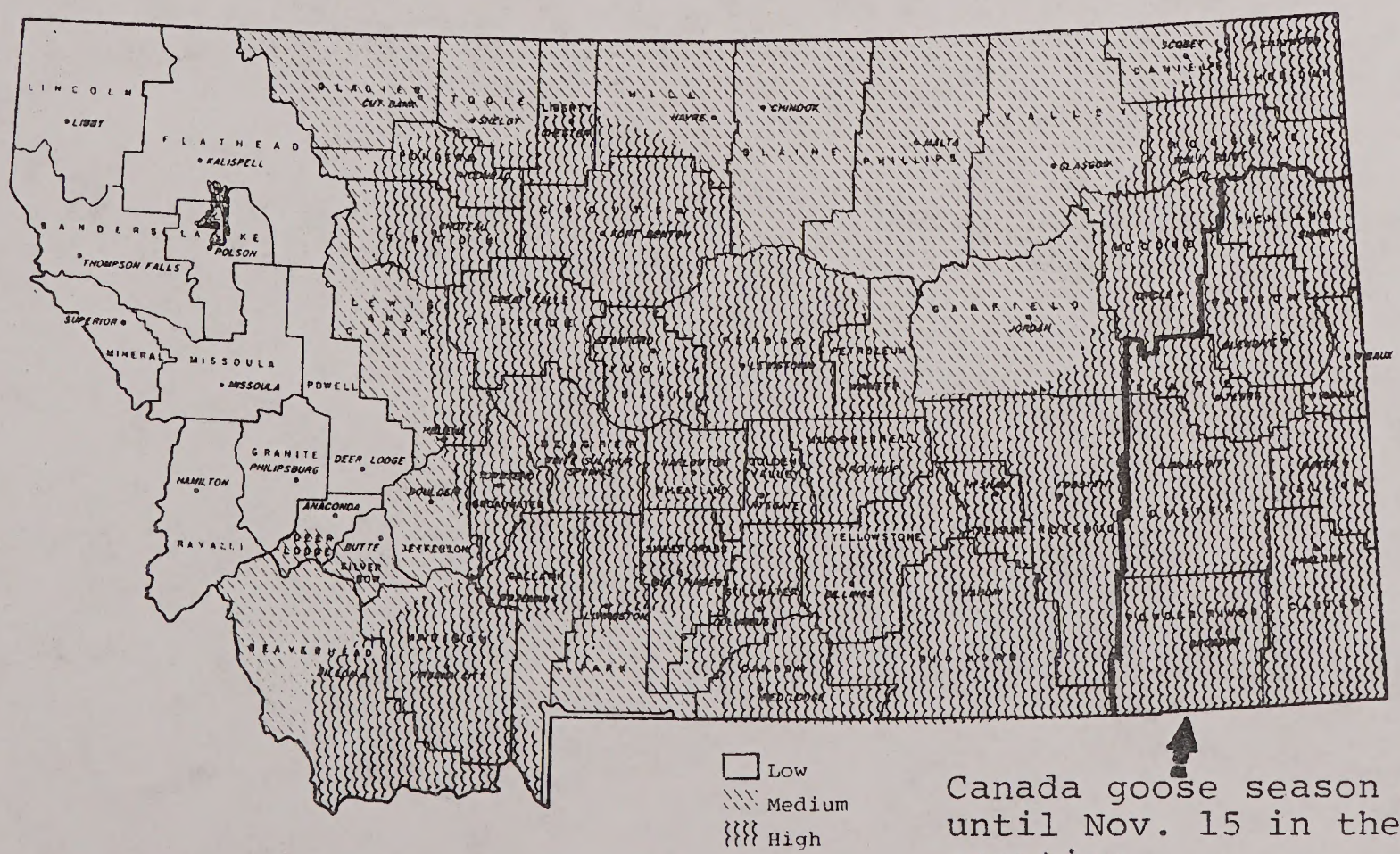
THE DANGER

Endrin affects the nervous system and at some levels may cause convulsions and brain damage. It kills fish at miniscule concentrations and is highly toxic to birds. It has been shown to cause birth defects in guinea pigs at very low concentrations. Little is known about cumulative effects on humans.

WHERE IT WAS USED

Records are not available to show all areas where endrin has been used, but the past spring some was sprayed in most counties east of the Continental Divide with highest use in southeastern Montana. The following map shows where hunters are most likely to encounter endrin-contaminated waterfowl. Highest contamination appears to be in pothole or small reservoir areas associated with endrin-treated fields. Bird hunters are advised not to hunt these areas.

POTENTIAL FOR TAKING CONTAMINATED WATERFOWL



Canada goose season closed until Nov. 15 in these eight counties.

WATERFOWL SEASON

After hearing results of sampling waterfowl for endrin and testimony of various toxicologists and health experts, the Fish and Game Commission accepted the department's recommendation to proceed with waterfowl seasons as scheduled with one exception.

THE EXCEPTION

The exception is that the Canada goose season will not open in the eight most heavily sprayed counties until Nov. 15. These counties are Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Fallon, Custer, Carter and Powder River.

The Canada goose season was delayed in these counties because:

1) All the geese sampled in the eight county area had high levels of endrin.

2) Research data indicated that broodmates are more often taken by the same hunter than ducks, increasing the possibility of bagging several contaminated birds at one time.

3) Research also indicates that a small percentage of goose hunters take a large percentage of the harvest, averaging as many as 20 or more birds per hunter, concentrating the hazard in a relatively small number of people.

4) Research indicates that the southward migration for Montana geese starts about November 15.

5) Short grass prairie geese which stage in Alberta and Saskatchewan start moving through Montana in early November, some years as many as 2,000 stay for several weeks. Dilution from these birds should reduce risk.

6) Small number of birds banded from the Hi-line are recovered from the lower Yellowstone as early as the first of November which indicate movement out of northern Montana and Saskatchewan. Dilution from these birds should lead to reduced risk.

7) Ten day census studies on the Yellowstone River indicate a two-three fold increase in geese occurs between Nov. 8 and 25 with the average at the 15th. This is based on weather and freeze up further north. This dilution also points to reduced risk.

8) Most small ponds in southeastern Montana are temporarily or permanently frozen by mid-November. Movement to larger water and mixing with other birds also reduces risk.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

1) Do not hunt pothole or small reservoir areas associated with nearby endrin-sprayed fields.

2) Trim all fat and discard the skin and internal organs. These items should be discarded in a manner which will assure that they cannot be consumed by humans or domestic or wild animals.

3) Fully cook the skinned bird on a rack and discard the drippings in the same manner as fat, skin and organs.

4) Do not stuff birds.

5) Women who are pregnant or suspect they are pregnant, and nursing women should not consume waterfowl.

6) No more than one duck or one pound of goose meat per week nor more than six ducks per year or six pounds of goose meat per year should be consumed by adults. Children's consumption should be limited to a half pound or less of meat at same intervals as those for adults.